

Activity 1: Problem-Solving

The lost necklace is a huge problem for the Loisels. They choose to solve that problem by replacing the necklace, living in poverty for ten years to do so. Was that the only way to solve the problem? Was it the best way? What would you have done?

Follow these steps to come up with one or more solutions to the Loisel's problem:

- State the problem as completely as you can.
- Identify the criteria that a good solution would have to meet.
- Propose one or more solutions to the problem, and choose the one you think works best.
- In a brief paragraph, explain why your solution is the most sensible and why.

Activity 2: Examining Perspectives

A central idea in "The Necklace" is status—who has it, who doesn't, and the cost of achieving it. How would you define status? To what degree might someone's view of status be colored by their own position at the top, middle, or bottom of the social ladder? Is there more than one way of looking at the issue? In the end, what are some of the costs of cool?

Think about the importance of status—in the realm of politics, celebrity, and even school. To what degree does it affect your own life?

- Define status.
- List several positive and negative aspects of achieving status.
- In a brief essay, identify four public figures who have status. Choose two who have status for all the right reasons and two who have it for all the wrong reasons. Then answer the question, "Does higher status equal happiness?"